

Torrance, California
May 13, 1947

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, May 13, 1947, at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Jackson moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held April 22, 1947; and the minutes of a Special Meeting held April 29, 1947 be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Taylor and Taylor, Consulting Engineers, advising that the three bids for laying a portion of Municipal Water District No. 2 pipe, referred to them for consideration as to award, had been checked, and recommending that the contract be awarded to the lowest bidder, namely, J. E. Young.

Councilman Tolson moved that the recommendation of Taylor and Taylor be concurred in. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that all other bids be rejected and bidder's deposits be returned. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Albert Mellinkoff, Owner of the Grand Theatre, Torrance, requesting that the City vacate a portion of a 15 foot alley adjoining the southeast corner of Cravens Avenue and Gramercy, which separates a piece of ground on which they have an option, for the purpose of erecting a first class theatre; and in return for this vacation they will dedicate to the City of Torrance a parcel of land adjoining the other portion of the alley.

Councilman Tolson moved that the request of Albert Mellinkoff be referred to the Planning Commission for recommendation. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Supervisor Raymond V. Darby advising that the request for installation of two additional stop signs at the intersection of Prairie and Redondo Beach Boulevards had been referred to their Traffic Committee; and on receipt of their recommendations we will be advised accordingly. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Tide Water Associated Oil Company advising that under the provisions of Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 1014 no receipts of earnings were collected or received by said company from the transportation of oil through that part of said system lying within the City limits of the City of Torrance for the twelve months preceding April 30, 1947. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization commending the City Council for taking steps to remedy the City's financial standing, and requesting the Council to employ, as soon as possible, adequate street and park crews for the essential maintenance of streets and parks. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Mrs. M. E. Attebery, President of the Mi-N-Yore Fun Club, with reference to a dance license. Mrs. Attebery explained that the purpose of the Mi-N-Yore Fun Club is to have a meeting place where the entire family and friends can gather for an evening of fun and entertainment, and by so doing give the parents an opportunity to do their part in curbing juvenile delinquency. Because of its purpose, Mrs. Attebery did not believe the Club should be made to pay for a business license.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Clerk be authorized to inspect the Mi-N-Yore Fun Club and report its activities to the Council. Mayor Sherfey seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Leonard A. Groves requesting a refund of \$18.00 on License No. 1807 for business of Real Estate, explaining that his business address was changed to a Los Angeles address before any business was conducted under said license.

Councilman Tolson moved that a refund of \$18.00 be granted Mr. Groves. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Long Beach Cigarette Service requesting refund on three city licenses, issued April 24, 1947, for one music box and two pin ball games installed in Allen's Cafe at 1413 Cravens Avenue, and stating that said cafe had gone out of business.

Councilman Tolson moved that Chief Stroh investigate the length of time the machines have been installed and report to the Council at the next meeting. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Ernest M. Hill requesting refunds on Building Permits Nos. 6642 and 6643, explaining that the purchase of Lot 7, Block 52, the property on which a residence was to be erected, had not been completed.

Councilman Powell moved that a refund be granted Mr. Hill. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from S. H. Pine, 10512 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, requesting the city to vacate all the streets and alleys within the area bounded on the north by Dominguez Street,

ABG943

on the east by Acacia Avenue, on the south by Maricopa Street and the Santa Fe Railroad, and on the west by Crenshaw Boulevard, for the purpose of resubdividing this area and constructing a housing project thereon.

City Engineer Jain stated that this matter had been discussed by the Planning Commission and it was their recommendation that this request be approved. After discussing the procedure to be followed and whether there should be a public hearing or not, Councilman Tolson moved that the request be referred to the Planning Commission. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Brink's, Incorporated, stating that the Columbia Steel Company had requested them to place an armored check cashing truck opposite their pay window at 840 Border Avenue, on the 10th and 25th of each month between the hours of 7:00 and 8:30 a.m., and asking that they be given permission to place one of their trucks at said location.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Clerk address a communication to Brink's, Incorporated advising that they will have to comply with the business license Ordinance. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from E. N. Gilliam & Son, 806 East 113th Street, Los Angeles 2, requesting the issuance of a city license to operate an Industrial Food Service Route.

Chief Stroh advised that he had made an investigation and recommended they be issued a license.

Councilman Powell moved that a city license be issued E. N. Gilliam & Son upon recommendation of Chief Stroh. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from James K. Howell, 5616 Maywood Avenue, Maywood, California, requesting a license to operate a truck for the purpose of selling ice cream and ice cream novelties.

Chief Stroh advised that he had made an investigation and recommended they be issued a license.

Councilman Powell moved that a city license be issued James K. Howell upon recommendation of Chief Stroh. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from A-1 Catering Service requesting a license to conduct the business of selling sandwiches, lunches, drinks, and other edibles.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be referred to Chief Stroh for investigation and recommendation. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Swell Time Ice Cream Corporation requesting a license to operate one truck in the City.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be referred to Chief Stroh for checking and recommendation. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Torrance Area Veterans Service Center advising that various organizations are participating in the Memorial Day Celebration, Friday, May 30th, and requesting permission to hold a parade. The Mayor was asked to participate in the service, plus detail from the Fire and Police Departments.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Applications for Taxicab Owners Permit were received from J. W. Alford for the operation of two taxicabs.

The applications having been approved by Chief Stroh, Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be granted. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Pierce in the audience, speaking on behalf of other taxicab operators in Torrance, claimed that the operation of additional cabs in the city would prove a hardship on those now in business.

Mayor Sherfey said that if all requirements of the Ordinance

are complied with, no one can be denied a permit and there is nothing the Council can do in this matter.

The request of Riddle Detective Agency for permission to operate a Merchant's Patrol Service and open a private office in the City of Torrance, which was referred to Chief Stroh for investigation and recommendation, was approved by him for granting of a license.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request of Riddle Detective Agency be granted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

The request of Jack A. Spaulding for permission to operate a lunch wagon referred to Chief Stroh for checking and recommendation was approved by him for the issuance of a city license for the Torrance Beach Area, after Mr. Spaulding has complied with the Health Department regulations.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request of Jack A. Spaulding be granted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication, addressed to Chief Stroh from the Board of Police Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles, was read with reference to the reversal of boulevard stop signs at 220th Street and Western Avenue. A copy of a report from R. T. Dorsey, Traffic Engineer was attached stating that, after a check of traffic at this intersection, he believed the boulevard stop signs should be reversed and recommending other changes at this intersection if agreeable to the City of Torrance.

To this correspondence was attached a communication from Chief Stroh in which he stated that the removal of stop signs from 220th Street and placed on Western Avenue will not eliminate the hazards which now exist and recommending that the stop signs be left at 220th Street.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the recommendation of Chief Stroh be concurred in. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A memorandum was read from City Engineer Jain showing traffic survey for two hours on Crenshaw Boulevard on May 8, 1947. Attached was a recommendation from Chief of Police Stroh that the 25 mile zone be extended from Sierra Avenue North on Crenshaw for 1500 feet and that appropriate signs be erected.

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation of Chief Stroh be concurred in. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from City Engineer Jain with reference to the sale of all stock at the City Nursery. Attached was an inventory of this stock at present wholesale prices, amounting to approximately \$985.00. It was Mr. Jain's understanding that John Kettler was offering to purchase the entire stock at the inventory figure.

Engineer Jain recommended that the nursery stock either be sold to Mr. Kettler at inventory price, or to anyone who might offer a higher bid.

A communication was read from J. E. Kettler, President, Kettler Knolls, Inc., submitting a bid of \$985.00 for the purchase of the Torrance City nursery stock and materials, with the provision that the city may, at any time, prior to the use of the stock in their South Torrance Tract, repurchase any plants at inventory price. They desired to make a substantial deposit on the purchase price and pay the balance within forty-five days. If their offer is accepted they will assume the responsibility for maintaining the plants in the nursery.

A discussion followed on the necessity of advertising for bids, and whether a time should be set for removing the plants.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Kettler's offer to purchase the City nursery stock at inventory prices be accepted, with the provision that if, at any time, the city desires to use the property where the plants are kept, Mr. Kettler remove the stock within a

ABC943

period of thirty days; and that he install his own water meter for the maintenance of the plants. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from City Engineer Jain stating that John Kettler had immediate use for the 15 K.W. motor generator set owned by the city. He advised that after checking with other concerns, the price of this size of equipment is approximately \$1200.00. Mr. Jain recommended that this equipment be offered for sale for not less than \$1,000.00; or for rent at the standard rate of \$175.00 per month, and that these rental payments could be applied on the purchase price, with a time limit on the final payment.

After some discussion on whether to sell or rent the equipment, Councilman Gilbert moved that the city retain the equipment, and that City Engineer Jain be authorized to lease or rent the equipment at the standard rate of \$175.00 per month. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from City Engineer Jain recommending that the City Council request the refund of unexpended funds, namely \$1830.00, from a deposit of \$2615.00 made with the Department of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles to cover anticipated expenses in connection with the acquisition of rights of way on Western Avenue. Engineer Jain explained that the City of Los Angeles is willing to refund this amount upon the guarantee of the City to include it in the 1947-48 budget so that these funds could be drawn against as additional expenses are incurred for this right of way. Engineer Jain requested the City Council to approve this transaction and definitely ear-mark the difference, \$1830.00 in the 1947-48 budget for this purpose, and instruct the City Clerk to send the Department of Public Works, City of Los Angeles, a certified copy of this motion.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Engineer Jain for approval of the above transaction be granted, and that the City Clerk be authorized to carry out said recommendation. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from City Engineer Jain recommending that the Caretaker at the City Dump be retained half days only, five days per week; that the dump be closed and locked, except to city trucks, at all other times; and that notices be sent to industries normally using the dump advising them of the hours material can be hauled to the dump.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the recommendation of Engineer Jain be concurred in. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from City Engineer Jain advising that he had inspected the wooden bleachers at the Municipal Ball Park and found that some sections are unsafe for public use and should not be occupied. He did not believe the City should assume responsibility and liability for these bleachers when occupied by crowds. It was his opinion that a few days labor and not more than \$150.00 expenditure for materials would put these bleachers in a reasonably safe condition until such time as new ones were purchased or constructed. Engineer Jain explained that the bleachers were never adequately braced nor ever reinforced and that a sudden rush of people could cause their collapse.

Councilman Tolson moved that an expenditure of \$150.00 be made for necessary repairs to the bleachers and that unsafe portions be closed off until the repairs are made. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Margaret Fordice, City Treasurer, appointing Charles A. Curtiss to act as her City of Torrance Deputy Treasurer until April 15, 1948.

City Attorney Willett suggested that this matter be referred to the Civil Service Board.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the classification of Charles A. Curtiss be changed from Deputy City Clerk to Deputy City Clerk-Deputy City Treasurer and that the Council request the Civil Service Board to make this change. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1835

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO AUTHORIZE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$6,500.00 FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PLAZA DEL AMO, FROM CARSON STREET TO ARLINGTON AVENUE.

Councilman Tolson moved that Resolution No. 1835 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1836

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING QUIT CLAIM DEED FROM CHARLES H. QUANDT TO TORRANCE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 1 AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1836 be adopted. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 387

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, CALIFORNIA STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF SAID PUBLIC AGENCY IN SAID STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAKING ITS EMPLOYEES MEMBERS OF SAID SYSTEM.

Councilman Powell moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 387 be dispensed with. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. Councilman Jackson inquired if in suspending further reading of Ordinance No. 387 would it have anything to do with its adoption. Clerk Bartlett replied that it would not. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that Ordinance No. 387 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Jackson,

ABG943

who gave his reason for voting no as follows: "I do not feel that the City is in any financial condition to take on an additional obligation of the sum that this will incur with the coming year. I think it is a worthy cause, but I do not think the time is right to take on this obligation with other obligations facing us - my vote is NO". ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from City Engineer Jain submitting proposed Subdivision Ordinance, recently approved by the City Planning Commission, governing the subdividing of land within the City of Torrance.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 388

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE SUBDIVIDING AND RE-SUBDIVIDING OF LAND WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, THE PREPARATION AND RECORDING OF MAPS OF SUBDIVISIONS; THE WIDTH OF STREETS AND ALLEYS, THE LENGTH OF BLOCKS AND FRONTAGE OF LOTS AND PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF STREETS WITHIN SUBDIVISIONS AND RE-SUBDIVISIONS, PROVIDING FOR BONDS THEREFOR, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION HEREOF, WHICH SAID ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 670 OF THE STATUTES OF 1937, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND AMENDMENTS, AND THE GENERAL POLICE POWERS OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA.

After some discussion during which the Council stated they had not studied the ordinance, Councilman Gilbert moved that the ordinance be referred to the Council as a whole for discussion and action at a later date. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A request was made to the Council for authorization to transfer the following funds to the General Fund, this being a book transaction and in accordance with the recommendation of the City Auditor: From Vehicle Act Fund \$48287.12; from Library, Motor Vehicle and Advertising Funds \$1034.79; from Special Street Funds \$2576.10 and from Post War Planning Fund \$7675.56, making a total of \$59573.57.

Councilman Tolson moved that the above transfers be made in accordance with recommendation of the City Auditor. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Judge Shidler advising that he was starting on his vacation and requesting a replacement during his absence.

Councilman Powell moved that City Attorney Willett act as City Judge during Judge Shidler's vacation. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$62.50, plus tax, be made for the purchase of 10,000 Bus Schedules. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Tolson moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$1000.00 be made for the purchase of new motor parts for the Bus Department. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

With reference to the request of Mrs. Buffington, President of the Creative Piano Teachers of Los Angeles, for reduction in yearly license tax for piano teachers, which was referred to the Council for discussion, Councilman Tolson moved that said request be again referred to the Council as a whole. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

In reply to the question of whether the Civil Service Ordinance could be amended, City Attorney Willett advised that, "under the City Charter the Civil Service system heretofore adopted by ordinance of the City Council (which covers all city employees excepting the Fire and Police personnel) shall continue in full force and effect unless amended, modified, enlarged or extended by ordinance adopted by the City Council or by amendment to the rules and regulations heretofore adopted by said City Council pursuant to the provisions of said ordinance"; therefore, the Council can amend the ordinance but not the Police and Fire ordinance which was voted by the people.

City Attorney Willett informed the Council that The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company has been given permission to operate without a franchise for the duration. He declared that no official action has been taken declaring the end of hostilities; that only Congress has this power.

In reply to a communication addressed to the Public Utilities Commission with reference to the installation of automatic crossing signals at Crenshaw Boulevard over tracks of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, City Attorney Willett informed the Council that the Commission had advised him that the Railway offers to bear one-half of the installation cost of signals, providing the City assume the remainder, which offer the Commission believed to be quite reasonable. It was their informal opinion that the City should give further consideration to the company's proposal.

In reply to a communication addressed to Assemblyman Vincent Thomas by City Attorney Willett inquiring whether or not a city charter amendment adopted at a regular election held in April, 1948, may be approved by the Legislature at its 1948 Regular Session, he was informed it may be approved if the adoption of the amendment by the voters of the City can be evidenced to the Legislature prior to its adjournment.

With reference to the consolidation of City of Torrance election with that of the Torrance City Board of Education, Mr. C. C. Trillingham, County Superintendent of Schools advised City Attorney Willett that if it met with the approval of the Torrance City Board of Education, his office would have no objection.

City Attorney Willett advised he had received a Notice of Hearing from the Public Utilities Commission in the matter of the application of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company for increase in rates. Attorney Willett said that he had sent a letter of protest to the Commission and that it was not necessary for the City of Torrance to have a representative at the hearing.

City Attorney Willett reported that William Finch, who had been found guilty of operating a place of business at 2121 Carson Street, Torrance, in violation of the City Land Use Ordinance, was no longer conducting a business at that address, and the case against him was now closed.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Engineer Jain reported that the Coast Brick Company, located in North Torrance, was digging beyond the limits specified in their permit.

Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred to Chief of Police Stroh for investigation and report to the Council at the next meeting to be held Friday, April 16, 1947.

May

ABG943

After some discussion on the procedure to be followed in this case, Councilman Powell withdrew his motion, and Engineer Jain was directed to sign a complaint against the Coast Brick Company after an investigation by Chief Stroh.

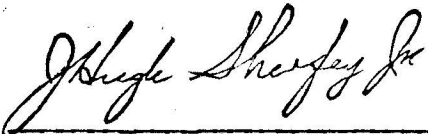
Mr. R. I. Plomert inquired what would be the city's obligation for participation under the State Employees' Retirement System. He was informed it would cost the City \$44,856.27, annually.

Councilman Gilbert moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:20 p.m., upon motion by Mayor Sherfey, seconded by Councilman Jackson, the meeting adjourned to Friday, May 16, 1947, at 5:00 p.m.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE